

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

11 September 1985

Dear John,

When I heard some time ago that you would be retiring October 1st, it seemed a long time away. Your note of three weeks ago brought me up short with the realization that that time is almost here.

You will be sorely missed. You and I have had the opportunity to foster what many believe to be the closest and most productive cooperation between CIA and Naval Intelligence in a generation. Your role has been central in that development, which I believe benefits not only our own organizations but the country as a whole.

I truly have enjoyed working with you the last several years. Your substantive insight and sense of humor have made working with you both stimulating and fun. I look forward to working with the new DNI as your successor but he certainly cannot replace you. I wish you the very best in retirement and want you to know that you will be missed.

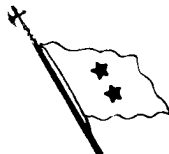
Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Gates".

Robert M. Gates

Deputy Director for Intelligence

RADM John L. Butts, U.S. Navy
Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350



DDI- C/B/2-85

DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

22 August 1985

Dear Bob,

My October 1st retirement date is coming up rather more rapidly than I had expected. Before I check out of the net, I want you to know how much I appreciate the outstanding support you have given to me personally and to naval intelligence over the past several years.

I heard Admiral Ike Kidd remark on one occasion that "It's always a pleasure to work with someone who really knows what they are doing and understands what you are trying to do." Indeed it is.

All the best to you and yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

JOHN L. BUTTS
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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